

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims

1-28 Cancelled

29. **(Withdrawn)** A method of using a cardiac specific-synthetic expression construct for expressing a gene in a cardiac cell comprising:

delivering into the cardiac cell a cardiac specific-synthetic expression construct; wherein, the cardiac-specific-synthetic expression construct comprises a cardiac-specificsynthetic-promoter (SeqID No: 5) operatively-linked to an expressible gene.

30. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 29, wherein the expressible-gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a growth-hormone-releasing-hormone ("GHRH") or functional biological equivalent thereof.

31. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 30, wherein the encoded GHRH is a biologically active polypeptide, and the encoded functional biological equivalent of GHRH is a polypeptide that has been engineered to contain a distinct amino acid sequence while simultaneously having similar or improved biologically activity when compared to the GHRH polypeptide.

32.-38 CANCELED

39. **(Currently Amended)** A cardiac specific-synthetic promoter comprising:

(a) a synthetic promoter element comprising c5-12 (SeqID#5), ~~c1-26 (SeqID#16); c2-26 (SeqID#17); c2-27 (SeqID#18); c5-5 (SeqID#19); c6-5 (SeqID#20); c6-16 (SeqID#21); or c6-39 (SeqID#22)~~; and at least one

(b) *cis*-acting regulatory element comprising SRE (SeqID#1); MEF-1 (SeqID#2); MEF-2 (SeqID#3); and or TEF-1 (SeqID#4).

40.-41. CANCELED

42. **(New)** A cardiac specific-synthetic promoter having a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO.5.